

Youth and Peace Processes: Who's in the Room?

A discussion on how youth are shifting entrenched local systems

Presented by the YouthPower
Youth Systems Strengthening CoP

June 8, 2022



Photo Credit: Pexels



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Welcome from your CoP Champions



Bonnie Politz

Community of Practice
Champion



Mike Hernandez

Community of Practice
Youth Advisor



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Webinar Housekeeping

- Please mute yourself when not speaking and keep your cameras off
- Post questions in the chat at any time
- Turn on English closed captioning with the “CC” button at the bottom of your screen
- This meeting is being recorded. The recording and slides will be available later at youthpower.org
- If you have technical issues please contact Stephanie Schmidt in private message or at stephanies@makingcents.com

Our Agenda Today

- Introductions
- Review of the Youth System Framework
- Hearing about Youth in Peace Processes and Shifting Norms
- Discussion
- Closing reflections



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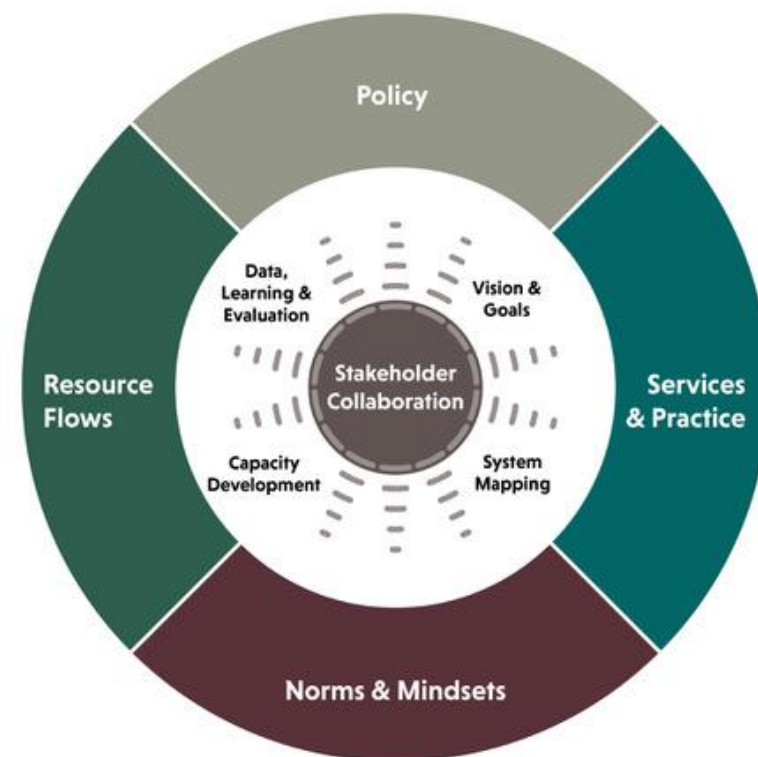
Youth Systems Strengthening Community of Practice (CoP)

The Youth Systems Strengthening (YSS) CoP aims to provide an open learning and sharing space that allows participants to understand more about the purposes, processes and outcomes associated with reforming systems that impact youth outcomes sustainably and at scale.

Discussion Group Link:

<https://www.youthpower.org/group/youth-systems-strengthening-community-practice>

Youth Systems Framework
by the Youth Systems CollaborativeSM



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Youth Systems Collaborative (YSC)

The Youth Systems CollaborativeSM is a network of international organizations seeking to learn about comprehensive systems change efforts that improve life outcomes for youth in low- and middle-income countries.



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How to join: <https://www.youthpower.org/>

The image shows two screenshots of the YouthPower2 website. The top screenshot displays the main navigation bar with the 'Register' link circled in red. The bottom screenshot shows the 'CONNECT' dropdown menu circled in orange, listing options such as 'COMMUNITIES - HOME', 'BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT COP', 'GENDER', 'HIGHER EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION', 'MENA YOUTH', 'YOUTH ENGAGEMENT', and 'YOUTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING'.



Register on
YouthPower.org



Connect with
others through the
CoP pages,
discussion groups,
and future events



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Our Speakers



Saji Prelis

Director, Children and Youth Programmes, Search for Common Ground
Co-Chair, Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security



Alakiir Chol Akoi

South Sudanese youth leader supporting Youth Talk project in South Sudan. She is a fierce leader and advocate for women's rights working on gender-based violence prevention, educating students about sexual harassment and forced marriages, and producing radio shows to talk about critical social issues.



Achaleke Christian Leke

Achaleke Christian Leke is an international development, peacebuilding and violent extremism expert with 15 years of experience working as a practitioner, researcher and academic, born and raised in Cameroon. He holds an MSc in Conflict Security and Development from the University of Birmingham. He is the executive director of Local Youth Corner Cameroon. He was recently appointed by the African Union's Peace and Security Commission to be a Youth Peace Ambassador for Central Africa region.





Search for Common Ground



ARTISTS



CHILDREN & YOUTH



MEDIA PROFESSIONALS



MILITARY & POLICE



POLITICAL LEADERS



PRISONERS



RELIGIOUS LEADERS



WOMEN



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Influencing Policy and Institutional Commitments

Saji Prelis

Search for Common Ground

Co-Chair, Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security



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Sparking & Sustaining **Enduring Change** in Youth Leadership in Peace and Security

**Shaping
Political
Norms/Policy**

**Strengthening
Institutional
Commitments to
Act on these
Norms/Policies**

**Strengthening
Networks,
Evidence and
Innovative
Financing**

2010 -2015 -2020

2015 -2030

2021 - 2030



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Global Coalition on Youth, Peace & Security



Co-Chaired by:
**UN-PBSO (DPPA); UNOY Peacebuilders &
Search for Common Ground**

Over 100 Organisations:
United Nations entities
Inter-Governmental Entities
INGOs
Youth-Led Organizations
Donors
Academic
Regional Networks



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Political Norms and Policy Shaping



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Old questions guided by policy panic

**Ask new questions to discover the missing
PEACE:**

Why are most youth peaceful?



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UNSCR 2250 in 2015

UNSCR 2419

UNSCR 2535

2015

2018

2020



1st Resolution
11,000 youth influenced this

Peace Processes

**Protection of youth
and their civic space**

Youth as a political
force for peace

Gave 408-600 million
young people voice



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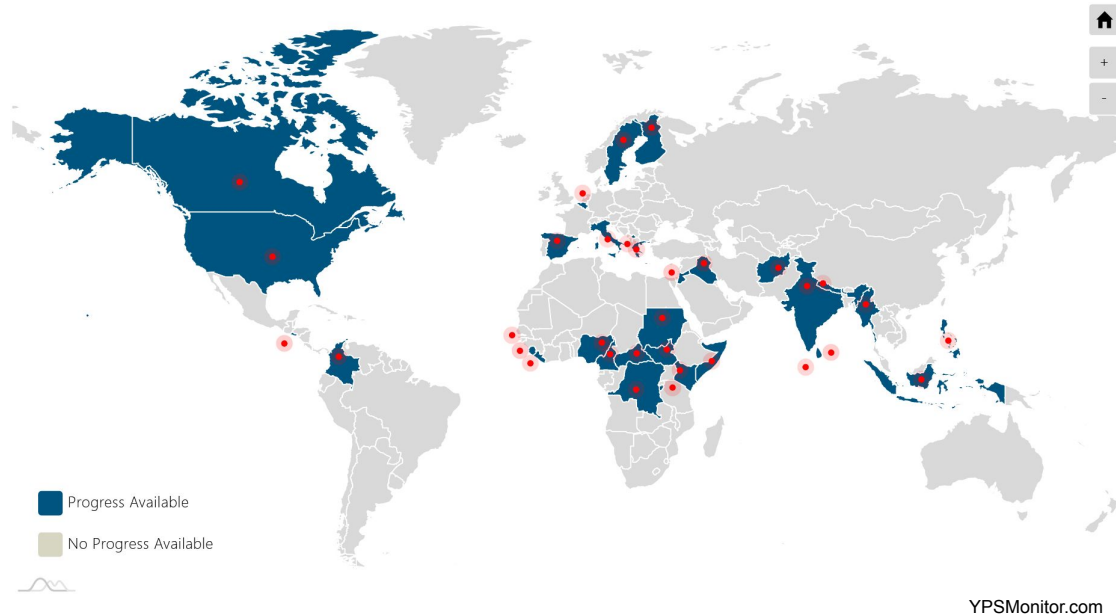
Institutional Commitments



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National and Regional Coalitions on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS)



REGIONAL NETWORKS:

- Middle East and North Africa YPS Network
- Latin America YPS Network
- South East Asia YPS Network
- Commonwealth Youth, Peace Ambassadors Network
- European YPS Network

INSTITUTIONAL:

- African Union (AU) Youth Ambassadors for Peace
- AU's 10-year Strategy + Regional Mechanisms YPS Strategies
- European Union YPS Strategy
- United Nations Strategy
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations



Finland, Nigeria, and Philippines YPS National Action Plans

CONGRESS.GOV Advanced Searches Browse Legislation C

Legislation Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care" MORE OPTIONS

Home > Legislation > 117th Congress > H.R.4838 Citation

H.R.4838 - Youth, Peace, and Security Act of 2021

117th Congress (2021-2022) | [Get alerts](#)

BILL Hide Overview X

Sponsor: [Rep. Meng, Grace \[D-NY-6\]](#) (Introduced 07/29/2021)

Committees: House - Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 07/29/2021 Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:

Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law



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GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA



التعليم | education
فوقا | above
الجميع | all

Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND



Launch of Conference Output



WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER:

Operationalizing a five-year Strategic Action Plan for youth-inclusive peace processes



Launch of Conference Output



Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at Country-level

A Guide for Public Officials




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Alakiir Chol Akoi

South Sudan

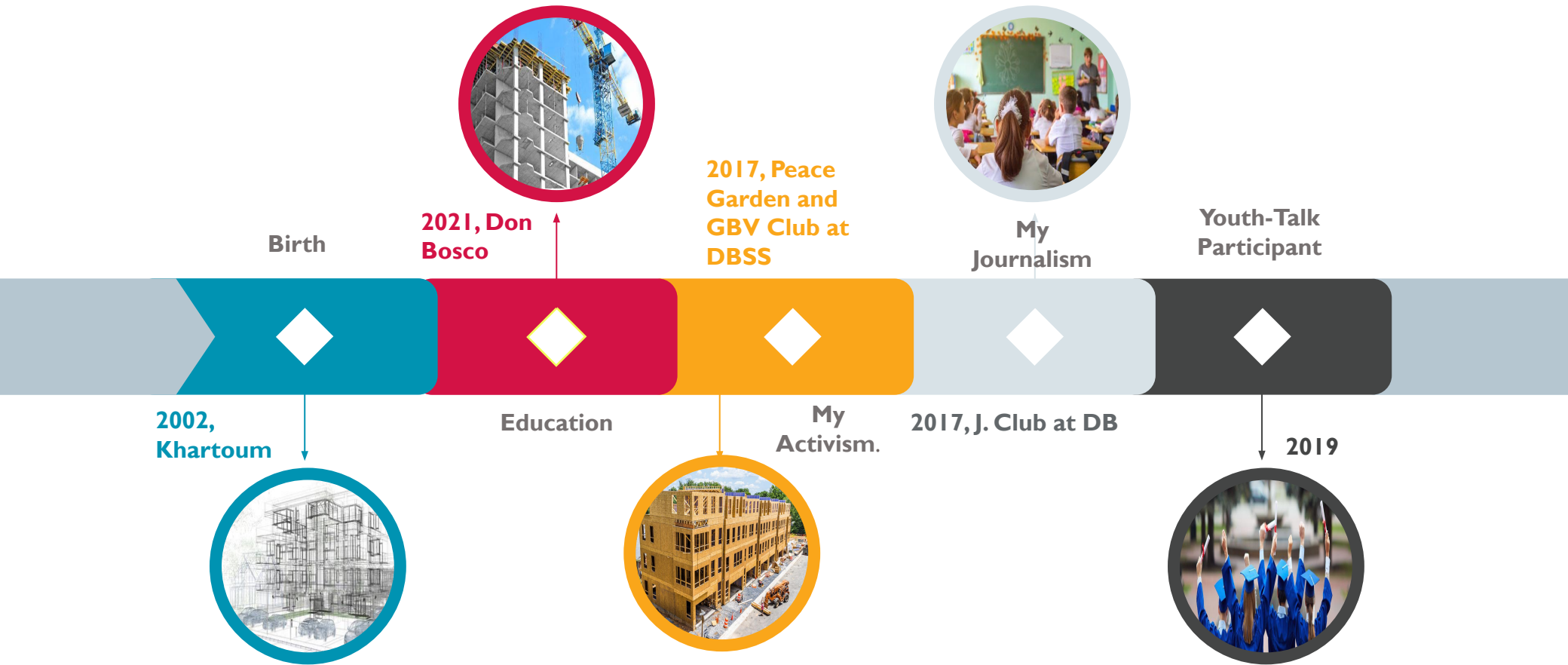
shannontrishilla@gmail.com



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My Story



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What I do

- Joined Search's “Youth Talk” project aimed at amplifying young people’s voices through media and outreach programs in 2019 and learned how to produce radio shows to talk about critical social issues in my community
- Conduct live talk shows that engage stakeholders and feature intergenerational dialogues

The radio show helps to:

- Amplify the voice of young people to participate meaningfully in peace building initiatives,
- Strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration between young people and adults in South Sudan
- Capture and share learning and tools among policymakers and practitioners



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What inspires me?

"In South Sudan, when a girl is raped, her parents often force her to marry the Perpetrator (rapist), receiving a dowry in the process."

I often see girls treated as mere objects of transaction. Thus, *"communities legitimize and perpetuate gender-based violence. Men can rape a girl knowing that it will make her a wife"*.



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Accomplishments

Radio Talk Show

- Young people are aware of the norms affecting them in the community.
- They are informed, educated, entertained and engaged through the radio programs.
- Communities started opening up on the harmful norms and traditions.

Outreach

- Eight intergenerational dialogues were conducted in eight locations, over 600 adults and young people came together to shape solutions to their communities.
- Intergenerational dialogue network was created by the members and actively working.
- Collaboration between young people and adults are strengthen.

Advocacy

- Advocacy meetings were conducted with government officials: military and police generals, ministers and speaker of the national legislative assembly, judges from Judiciary of South Sudan, UN Youth envoy, Humanitarian experts, community-based and civil society organizations, and lastly local chiefs and community leaders across South Sudan.

Achievements

- Gender Desk was established in all states and administrative areas of South Sudan.
- One-stop centers established.
- Juvenile Court for GBV Launched.
- GBV toll free-line launched.



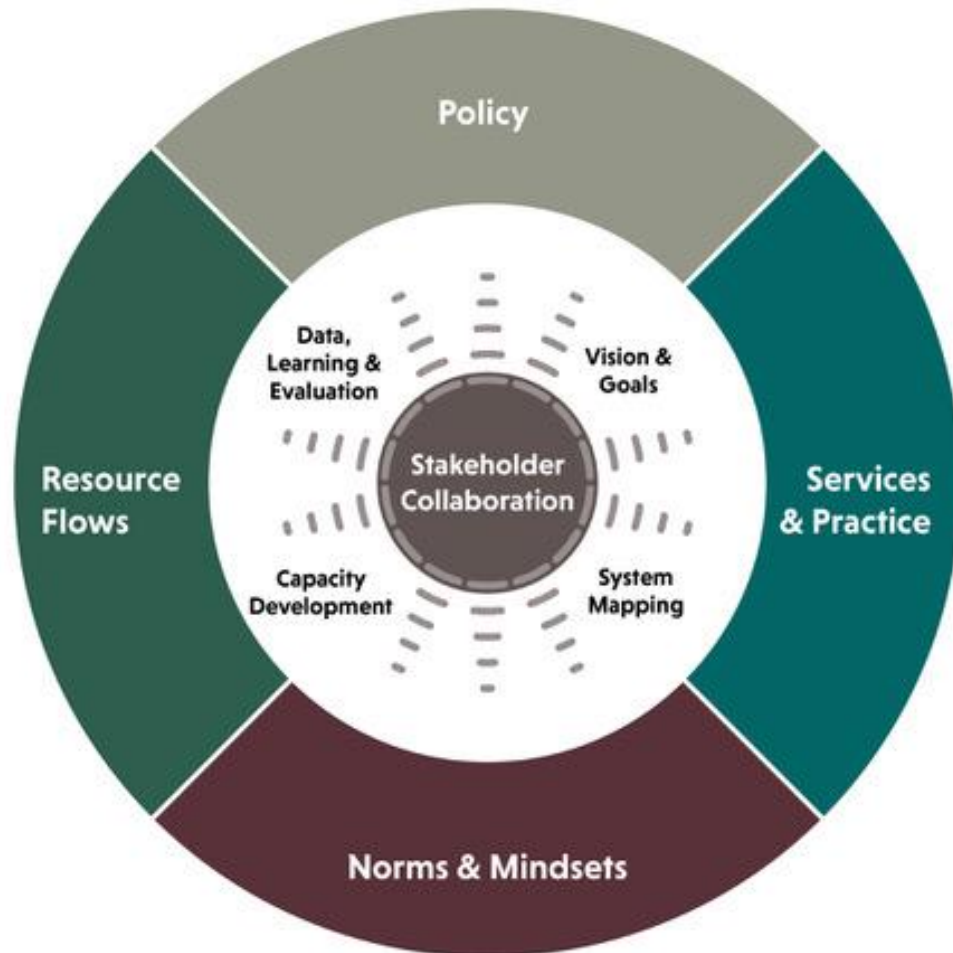
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Youth Systems Framework

by the Youth Systems CollaborativeSM

Discussion



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Looking for more on youth inclusion in democracy and peacebuilding efforts?

- [Toolkit for Youth Inclusion in Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance](#)
- [Youth Civic Engagement 2021 Country Snapshots](#)

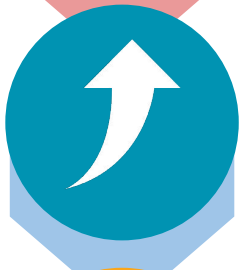
What are other great resources? Add links to useful resources in the chat and we will consolidate links in the final slides uploaded.

Upcoming Learning Network Events

Find details and register on the [YouthPower.org Events](https://youthpower.org/events) page



Wednesday, June 22: The New Normal: Lessons from COVID-19 and Youth-led Solutions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender-based Violence (Gender CoP)



August (date to be confirmed): Lessons from Developing Nationally Scalable Strategies in Jordan (Youth Systems Strengthening and Middle East and North Africa Youth CoPs)



Other upcoming events on sustainable youth groups and networks, youth-led implementation research, and more!



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THANK YOU!

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